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Agencies Deny Slowing an Inquiry On U.S. Use of Nazi Collaborators

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WASHINGTON, May 17 — The Justice and State Departments denied today that they had attempted in recent years to impede investigations into the recruitment of former Nazi collaborators by American intelligence agencies after the end of World War II.

Responding to charges made Sunday by a former Federal investigator, Justice Department officials said today that prosecutors had been actively investigating a number of émigrés from the Soviet Union suspected of committing atrocities on behalf of the Nazis in the war.

A department spokesman, Thomas M. Stewart, said that prosecutors in a special office, created several years ago to investigate suspected Nazi war criminals living in the United States, did not believe that they had assembled sufficient evidence to charge any suspects.

He added that, "No agency of the U.S. Government has ever attempted to call the Office of Special Investigations off any investigation."

Files Are Reviewed

Alan D. Romberg, a spokesman for the State Department, said today that the department was reviewing its files in search of information relevant to the charge that in the mid-1940's a secret State Department intelligence agency, the Office of Policy Coordination, recruited former Nazi collaborators from the Soviet Union in hopes they would provide intelligence information.

John Loftus, a former prosecutor in the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, charged in an appearance on the CBS News program "60 Minutes" Sunday that American intelligence agencies smuggled hundreds of Soviet-born Nazi collaborators into the United States at the end of World War II.

Mr. Loftus said that efforts to investigate the émigrés, many of whom he said were still living in the United States and working for the Govern-

ment, were obstructed by Government agencies.

Mr. Romberg said today that "there simply has been no effort at cover-up" by the State Department. He added that the department had "cooperated fully" with all investigations by trying to secure information from the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries about possible collaboration with Nazis by individuals who eventually resettled in the United States.

9 Successful Prosecutions

Since its formation in the Carter Administration, the Office of Special Investigations has prosecuted 26 cases involving émigrés accused of working with the Nazis or of committing atrocities, according to department officials. Nine of the prosecutions were successful, leading to revocation of citizenship and to deportation. They said the office had 20 lawyers and had not been trimmed by Reagan Administration budget cuts.

In related developments today, members of the House subcommittee on immigration said they had secured tentative approval from House leaders to reopen a subcommittee investigation into the Government's handling of reputed Nazis. The subcommittee looked into the issue in the late 1970's.

Former Representative Elizabeth Holtzman, the Brooklyn District Attorney, was the subcommittee's chairman during its investigation. She said today in a statement released by her office that Mr. Loftus's charges, if true, showed that the subcommittee had been misled by Government officials.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, appealed to President Reagan today to appoint a Presidential commission to investigate the charges made by Mr. Loftus. B'nai B'rith International also called on the White House and Congress to investigate the allegations.